HAZ-CHEM NEWS

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November 18-19, 2008
ND Haz Mat Conference – Bismarck, ND

March 1, 2009
Deadline for Tier II Reports for RY2008

July 1, 2009
Deadline for Toxic Release inventory Report for RY2008

For questions or further information about this newsletter, please contact Ray DeBoer at 701.328.8112 or rdeboer@nd.gov.

A big thank you to the Arizona Emergency Response Commission for providing the content for this newsletter.

HAZ-CHEM Preparedness Response

Chemical Safety Board Completes Testing of Key Valve

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB), investigating a fatal propane explosion at a West Virginia convenience store, recently announced that testing is completed on a key propane valve and outlined other issues that will be examined in the final investigation report.

The accident on January 30, 2007, at the Little General Store in Ghent, WV killed four people and injured six others when propane gas was suddenly released through a liquid withdrawal valve during a changeover between two propane tanks. A volunteer firefighter and an EMT who responded to reports of the leak were among those killed when the propane cloud ignited, destroying the store.

The CSB has examined and tested the valve and found that on the day of the accident the valve was stuck in an open position. Investigators are continuing their examination of regulatory and code compliance as well as West Virginia's gas safety practices.

On the day of the accident, a technician was preparing to transfer propane from one tank to another as a result of a change in suppliers. One of the tanks was located against the store's outside rear wall. The other tank was located about ten feet away. While preparing for the transfer, propane began flowing out of the liquid withdrawal valve on the tank located next

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FBI Warns Emergency 911 Swatters are a Growing Menace

The FBI says that there has been a significant increase in the illegal activity known as "swatting," where criminals and pranksters call in a fake 911 in hopes of drawing a response from law enforcement - usually a Special Weapons and Tactics team.

The U.S. Department of Justice says swatters also make other false reports to elicit an emergency response by other first responders, such as adult protective services, to a specific physical address. In addition, swatters typically spoof phone numbers to conceal their identity. Swatters often tell tales of hostages about to be executed or bombs about to detonate. The community is placed in danger as responders rush to the scene, taking them away from real emergencies. And the officers are placed in danger as unsuspecting residents may try to defend themselves. The FBI has arrested five swatters who, between 2002 and 2006, called 911 in more than 60 cities nationwide, impacting more than 100 victims, causing a disruption of services for telecommunications providers and emergency responders, and resulting in up to $250,000 in losses. Swats that the group committed included using bomb threats at sporting events, causing the events to be delayed; claiming that hotel visitors were armed and dangerous, causing an evacuation of the entire hotel; and making threats against public parks and officials, the FBI stated.

Source: http://www.networkworld.com/community/node/24714

EPA Targets Compliance Efforts

EPA is combining Toxics Release Inventory (TRI-Form R) data with information from other sources, such as permits, Tier Two reports, etc., to target enforcement efforts and to improve the quality of information in various databases, according to agency officials speaking at the recent 2008 TRI National Training Conference.

The Facility Registry System, or FRS, is a centrally managed database that identifies facilities, sites, or places subject to environmental regulations or of environmental interest. "The FRS provides Internet access to a single integrated source of comprehensive (air, water, and waste) environmental information about facilities, sites, or places," according to information on EPA's website. Among other uses, combining information through EPA's FRS can help to identify firms that may have failed to report TRI data, under-reported their releases, or over-reported releases.

Ensuring Appropriate Enforcement: Comparing TRI data with information such as releases companies said they anticipated when they applied for air or water permits can help to show discrepancies that may result from errors in an EPA database or may result from noncompliance. Combining TRI data and demographic information also can help inspectors to identify communities with environmental justice concerns that could prompt the need for one or more facilities to be inspected.

It was also noted that EPA's Enforcement Compliance and History Online (ECHO) database averages 70,000 to 75,000 searches a month.

EPA's ECHO database, Facility Registry System, and other searchable databases are available at http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/qmr.html

2006 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Public Data Release

EPA is releasing the 2006 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data. The TRI, created under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, requires certain facilities to report annually on their chemical releases and other waste management activities to EPA and the states. In addition, the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA) of 1990 mandates collection of data from these facilities on toxic chemicals treated on-site, recycled, and combusted for energy recovery.

Continued increases in electronic reporting and improvements in data processing and analysis make earlier data releases possible. Close to 95 percent of TRI reporters submitted electronically. Approximately 22,880 facilities reported on almost 650 toxic chemicals for 2006. Analyses are available on EPA's Web site that provide context for understanding the full picture presented by the 2006 data. The data released and analyzed at a national level were released on a facility-specific basis last September.

Some of the findings of interest at the national level: Total disposal and other releases are down 2% from last year. Combined air releases of TRI chemicals are down 7%. Air releases of mercury are down 4%. Total disposal and other releases of mercury to all media combined increased 17%.

From 2001-2006, total releases reported to TRI decreased by 24%. In 2001, persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals were reported for the first time and, therefore, the first year that includes data on all current TRI chemicals. A large part of the decrease reflects a change in reporting requirements for the metal mining sector that resulted from a court decision in 2003. Without the mining sector, total disposal and other releases decreased by about 8%.

A summary of the 2006 TRI data and background materials are available on the Internet at www.epa.gov/tri . The TRI Internet site also provides a link to the TRI Explorer, an electronic search tool that makes the TRI data more easily accessible and understandable.

"Citizens have information about hundreds of chemicals at their finger tips and, we're getting that information to them faster than ever with improvements made in electronic reporting, data processing, and analysis," said EPA's Chief Information Officer, Molly O'Neill. "Making the public aware of this inventory of releases is a powerful tool for reducing pollution. From 2001 to 2006 we have seen a 24 percent decrease in total releases." Information about the 2006 reporting year is available at: http://epa.gov/tri/tridata/tri06/index.htm. General information about TRI is available at: www.epa.gov/tri. A brochure that provides an overview of the 2006 data isavailable at: http://epa.gov/tri/tridata/tri06/brochure/brochure.htm. If you have questions or comments on the TRI data or the reports, please contact Ingrid Rosencrantz, TRI Program, at (202) 566-0961 or Cathy Milbourn at 202-564-4355 or Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov. (Note: You can update or cancel your subscription at any time. https://service.govdelivery.com/service/user.html?code=USAEPA You need only your e-mail address and your password if you have selected one. If you have any questions or problems about this service, please contact support@govdelivery.com for assistance.)

Intermodal Transport

From the HCB (Hazardous Cargo Bulletin- Feb 7, 2008): "US railroad BNSF has received certification for implementing the Responsible Care Management System, the voluntary health, safety, security and environmental regime developed by the American Chemistry Council (ACC). "BNSF's first priority is the safety of its employees, customers and communities in which it operates," says BNSF."

Plans and Procedures for Response:

Developing disasters plans that satisfy federal and state requirements. Visit: http://www.homelandresponder.org/hrbrief_111.htm

First Responder Field Guide

- The guides can be used to assist with responses, training, planning and exercises.
- The guides are designed for normal public safety operations. Not for high threat locations.

The field guides are available at www.all-hands.net/ , the Wisconsin Chapter of the IAAI at: www.wiiaai.com/news.htm and other first responder based websites.

These guides are works in progress. You are, of course, encouraged to follow local guidelines and procedures. Consider sharing them with appropriate staff/agencies/ special teams.

Please also see other Field Response Guides for Mass Shootings, Clandestine Drug Labs, Bottle Bombs, Suspicious Letters/Packages, Suicide Bombers, Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), VBIEDs Indoor Marijuana Grows and OPSEC for Public Safety.

The guides are designed to be user friendly, two-sided, and placed in go-bags, response vehicles and command vehicles and designed to help any first responder (EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, Hazmat, Special Teams, Emergency Management, etc.), with minimum training, in the first 10-15 minutes of an incident. These are all Version One DRAFTS so much work will be done during 2008. Remember...the price is right!

When you share, please give credit where credit is due!

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to send an e-mail to August Vernon at fdtac@yahoo.com . (Thanks to August and Hazmat-WMD@yahoogroups.com)

PHMSA Publishes Miscellaneous Amendments Final Rule

Read this one CAREFULLY! It adds a new ID number for Ethanol/Gasoline Mixtures see: http://tinyurl.com/2wtlyu or http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a080128c.html#Pipeline%20and%20Hazardous%20Materials%20Safety%20Administration
http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-1211.pdf

Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration 49 CFR Parts 171, 172, 173, 175, 177, 178, 180 [Docket No. PHMSA-05-21812 (HM-218D)] RIN 2137-AE10 Hazardous Materials; Miscellaneous Amendments

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT. ACTION: Final rule.
SUMMARY: PHMSA is amending the Hazardous Materials Regulations to update, clarify or provide relief from certain requirements governing the classification, packaging, or labeling of hazardous materials transported in commerce. Among other provisions, PHMSA is adopting a new proper shipping name and identification number for fuel blends composed of ethanol and gasoline. In addition, PHMSA is updating references to consensus standards, revising and clarifying certain hazard communication requirements, and clarifying transportation requirements applicable to dry ice, detonator assemblies, and explosives. PHMSA is also expanding exceptions from regulation for small quantities of hazardous materials.

DATES: ***Effective date: The effective date of these amendments is October 1, 2008.***

Incorporation by Reference Date: The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in these amendments is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of October 1, 2008.
Voluntary Compliance: Compliance with the requirements adopted herein is [[Page 4700]] authorized as of January 28, 2008. However, persons voluntarily complying with these regulations should be aware that appeals may be received and as a result of PHMSA's evaluation of these appeals, the amendments adopted in this final rule could be subject to further revision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cameron Satterthwaite, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards, (202) 366-8553, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001.
Thanks to: "Bruce Bugg" obbugg@gsp.net for getting the word out. Capt. Bruce Bugg, Special Projects Coordinator, Motor Carrier Compliance Division Georgia Department of Public Safety, voice: 404-624-7211 or -7230 e-mail: obbugg@gsp.net

Mitigation of the Rural Fire Problem

USFA (United States Fire Administration) has released a comprehensive report from a joint project with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to examine what can be done to reduce the high death rate from fire in rural America. This report, "Mitigation of the Rural Fire Problem - Strategies Based on Original Research and Adaptation of Existing Best Practices" (http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2008releases/020508.shtm), provides implementation strategies for the reduction of rural fires.

The report targets the fundamental differences in the nature of the rural fire problem compared to the U.S. fire problem as a whole. Also visit: http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/other/rural-mitigation.shtm

"As communities with fewer than 2,500 residents have a per capita fire death rate almost twice the national rate, this is an important life safety effort," said Gregory B. Cade, U.S. Fire Administrator. "USFA has a long commitment to reducing fire deaths in this country through effective mitigation and preparedness."

The project reached out to leaders of organizations serving rural communities to learn what works in implementing programs in those communities. Also, national and local fire service organizations were consulted to learn more about their program successes and challenges in the reduction of fires, deaths, and injuries in rural communities.

In addition to fire protection and suppression, human issues such as public fire safety education and technical factors, including fire and smoke detection, codes, consumer product safety, and residential fire sprinklers, are discussed in the report.

"NFPA was pleased to partner with USFA on this innovative project that has identified ways to reduce fire deaths in rural America," said James Shannon, NFPA president. "This initiative supports NFPA's efforts in saving lives, protecting property, and reducing risks associated with fire."

Whether it is the separation of communities from one another or the separation of residents from one another, the report finds separation to be the defining characteristic of rural America. Ultimately, separation makes it more costly to conduct business in rural communities - impacting the economy - and residents are more likely to be on the lower end of the economic scale. The communications challenges some businesses face due to separation, like print media for example, may impact the quality and ease of communication within and to a rural community. This is an example of something that may limit the distribution of safety information.

Poverty was found to be the most significant factor driving the higher fire risk in rural America. Less income means potentially fewer resources. While rural populations have a greater need for fire safety, they have a reduced ability to fill that need without outside help. They would benefit from safer products - which can sometimes mean newer products - as well as devices designed to provide safety like smoke alarms.

This report also includes Train-the-Trainer presentations for the rural fire service and community leaders on administering successful outreach programs and a separate presentation for citizens highlighting key fire safety and preparedness messages.

The U.S. Fire Administration has a mission to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies through leadership, advocacy, coordination and support. It is the federal leader in public fire education and awareness, fire service training, fire-related technology and data collection.

NFPA has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. Visit NFPA's Web site at www.nfpa.org.

(Thanks to www.nasttpo.org president, Tim Gablehouse for sharing.)

Laws, Regulation, Guidance and Dockets

NEW feature on the EPA website. This site is titled "Laws, Regulations, Guidance and Dockets" offers the public's first exposure to EPA's regulatory activities. It has been enhanced with several ways to search and comment on EPA regulations and significant guidance documents, and to learn how environmental regulations are written. The site also includes new sections for finding regulations and related documents, plus regulatory history, statutory authority, supporting analyses, compliance information, and guidance for implementation. Also, for the first time, searches for regulatory information can be conducted by environmental topics, such as water or air, or by business sectors, such as transportation or construction.

The new site can be accessed from EPA's homepage and can be found by choosing "Laws, Regulations, Guidance & Dockets" from the left-hand navigation bar. See the new site: http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/

INDUSTRY NEWS

How to Calculate SARA Title III TPQs for Molten Materials Containing EHSs [40 CFR 355.30(e)(2)(iv)]

Section 302 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act requires facilities that have on-site threshold amounts of extremely hazardous substances to notify their State Emergency Response Commission that they are subject to the law and Section 303 requires these facilities to report the name of their facility's emergency coordinator to the local emergency planning committee.

In order to determine if your facility is subject to the notification requirements of Sections 302 and 303 of SARA Title III, you must compare the amount of every extremely hazardous substance (EHS) present at your facility with the threshold planning quantity (TPQ) established by EPA for each of these materials. The list of EHSs and their corresponding TPQs is found at 40 CFR 355 Appendix A.

When conducting a threshold determination in the case of a facility where an EHS is present as a component of a solid material and that solid material becomes molten during facility processes, a specific protocol developed by EPA is required. In this scenario, where EPA has assigned a dual TPQ (consisting of an upper and a lower TPQ value), the lower of the EHS's two TPQs must be used for the purpose of threshold determination.

The calculation formula required to be used is found at 40 CFR 355.30(e)(2)(iv). This formula states that if the EHS is in molten form when present at your facility, then the amount of EHS in the molten form must be multiplied by 0.3 to determine whether it meets the lower TPQ.

If your facility has any EHSs at their TPQ (or 500 lbs, whichever is less) or any OSHA hazardous chemicals in quantities of at least 10,000 lbs, you must submit a Tier II form in accordance with EPCRA Section 312. (NOTE: Don't forget 311 notification when you bring a new chemical onsite. It's a way to keep the LEPC, FD and SERC updated between 312 filings.)

How to Calculate the TPQ for EHSs That Are Solids [40 CFR 355.30(e)]

Section 302 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act require facilities that have on-site threshold amounts of extremely hazardous substances to notify their State Emergency Response Commission that they are subject to the law, and Section 303 requires these facilities to report the name of their facility's emergency coordinator to the local emergency planning committee.

(NOTE: Makes good sense to keep the Fire Department with jurisdiction for your facility, your Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Commission all on the same sheet of music by providing them the same information at the same time. If you provide the information electronically and online, you're ensuring notifications are received by the entities requiring it. The AZSERC, all AZ LEPCs and a growing majority of Fire Departments accept the electronic reporting. Check out www.azserc.org if you haven't already.)

In order to determine if your facility is subject to the notification requirements of Sections 302 and 303 of SARA Title III, you must compare the amount of every extremely hazardous substance (EHS) present at your facility with the threshold planning quantity (TPQ) established by EPA for each of these materials. The list of EHSs and their corresponding TPQs is found at 40 CFR 355 Appendix A.

When making the TPQ determination, you may encounter an EHS with two TPQs, such as phenol (500/10,000 lbs). A material with two TPQs is a solid at standard temperature and pressure.

The regulations at 40 CFR 355.30(e) state that you must use the lower TPQ if any of the following three criteria are met for the EHS at your facility:

- The solid exists in powdered form and has a particle size of <100 microns
- The solid is handled in solution or in molten form
- The solid meets the criteria for a National Fire

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Protection Association (NFPA) rating of 2, 3, or 4 for reactivity (refer to NFPA 704 in their “Fire Protection Guide on Hazardous Materials”)

(NOTE: You can access the listing of chemicals with an NFPA rating of 2, 3, 4 for reactivity- on line- during the filing process at www.azserc.org)

If your facility has any EHSs at their TPQ (or 500 lb, whichever is less) or any OSHA hazardous chemicals in quantities of at least 10,000 lbs, you must submit a Tier II form in accordance with EPCRA Section 312.

Completing a DHS Top-Screen When Your Facility Has Fuels [6 CFR 27.200]

If your facility manufactures, stores, or distributes fuels like diesel, jet fuel, gasoline, and/or kerosene, you may or may not need to fill out a Top-Screen under the Department of Homeland Security’s Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards. The Top-Screen is only required to be submitted if any of your fuels contain components that are at or above the Screening Threshold Quantity on Appendix A to 6 CFR 27 Chemicals of Interest List.

More information on the DHS regulations may be found at: http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/programs/gc_1169501486197.shtm.

(Thanks to the Environmental Resource Center and aknight@ercweb.com)

Applicability of Department of Homeland Security CSAT Top-Screen Regulations [6 CFR 27.200(b)(1)]

Hopefully you've seen this many times before...but just in case you haven't...

The Department of Homeland Security’s chemical security regulations at 6 CFR 27.200 include the following requirements:

- Chemical facilities fitting certain profiles must complete a "Top Screen" risk assessment accessible through a secure DHS website. The department will use this screening tool to determine if a facility meets preliminary "high level security risk" criteria and thus will be covered by this program.

- If a chemical facility qualifies as "preliminarily high risk," DHS would require the facility to prepare and submit a security vulnerability assessment and site security plan. The Department will provide technical assistance to facilities as appropriate.

- Following a facility's submission of their security vulnerability assessment and site security plan, the Department will review them for quality and effectiveness in meeting risk-based performance standards. DHS would follow up with a site inspection and/or audit.

- If the facility's security vulnerability assessment or site security plan is found deficient or if other problems arise, the facility can request further technical assistance from the Department. Facilities can also appeal Department decisions, depending on the stage of the process. If the security vulnerability assessment and/or site security plan are disapproved, the facility would be required to either revise its assessment and/or plan for Department reconsideration and approval.

- Facilities that fail to meet performance standards could face penalties and ultimately could be shut down if they do not comply with the rules.

- If the facility's site security plan is approved and fully implemented, DHS would then issue a letter of approval to document the determination. The Department would also then notify the facility of its continuing obligations to maintain and periodically update its vulnerability assessment and site security plan. The facility also must immediately notify DHS if it becomes aware of any deficiencies in its vulnerability assessment or site security plan, including deficiencies that result from plant modifications.

Your facility must have completed and submitted a Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) Top Screen by Jan. 22, 2008, if:

- The Assistant Secretary contacted your company individually, or DHS contacted a facility that potentially represents the highest risk. These facilities were individually notified on or about the effective date of the rule, June 8, 2007.

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- DHS published the final "chemical of interest list" (Appendix A to 6 CFR Part 27) on Nov. 20, 2007. A CSAT Top-Screen is due from facilities that possess or plan to possess a chemical on the DHS chemical of interest list at or above its Screening Threshold Quantity (STQ). Facilities that come into possession of any chemical of interest on the DHS chemical of interest list at or above the STQ have 60 calendar days from the date upon which they possess that amount of the chemical to complete a new Top-Screen.

You must update your Top-Screens periodically according to the schedule specified in 6 CFR 27.210. The submission schedule varies by tier (level of risk of facility). A new Top-Screen is also due within 60 days of a facility making material modifications to its product portfolio, personnel, operations, or site. DHS also requires you to conduct an annual audit of your compliance with its Site Security Plan (SSP).

For more information on the Department of Homeland's Security new Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, see their web site at http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/laws/gc_1166796969417.shtm . (Thanks to Environmental Resource Center (ERC) for this information.

Visit ERC at: http://www.ercweb.com/consulting/index.aspx - Amy Knight - at 919-469-1585, Ext. 224, or aknight@ercweb.com).

Chemical Terrorism Vulnerability Information [6 CFR 27]

Any person submitting a Top-Screen as required for high-risk facilities under the Department of Homeland Security's Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards must receive Chemical Terrorism Vulnerability Information (CVI) training and authorization. The training can be accessed from the DHS website at http://www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity.

Examples of CVI include chemical facility security information, top-screen information, security vulnerability assessments, and site security plans.

CVI training covers how to protect chemical information and to whom and under what circumstances such information may be disclosed. After taking the training, the DHS will make sure that all check boxes on the non-disclosure agreement are checked (with the exception of federal employees) and that all user information is complete. Help-desk personnel will then assign the user a CVI ID and send the user a CVI training certificate that contains the user's name, CVI ID, and date of training.

More information can be found in the CVI Manual at http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/chemsec_cvi_proceduresmanual.pdf.

Thanks to the Environmental Resource Center. Please contact aknight@ercweb.com for more information.

DHS Inspections for Compliance With the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards [6 CFR 27.255]

After the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) determines if your facility is regulated pending the completion of your DHS Top-Screen, the department will conduct an inspection to determine if your facility is effectively implementing the risk-based performance standards for the degree of risk that the facility presents. The DHS is currently developing guidance for the risk-based performance standards, of which recordkeeping is a key component. The forthcoming guidance will advise you on the processes, actions, and measures that would help you meet the records risk-based performance standard for your site's respective risk tier. Tier 1 is the highest risk facility, and Tier 4 is the lowest risk facility covered under the standard.

6 CFR 27.255 also identifies a specific list of recordkeeping requirements. As a rule of thumb, higher risk facilities will be inspected and audited with greater frequency than lower risk facilities. However, all facilities will be inspected and audited on a regular basis.

For more information on the new DHS Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, visit the DHS website or contact Environmental Resource Center,

SVA and SSP Completion for the DHS [6 CFR 27.230]

After your facility completes the Chemical Security Anti-Terrorism (CSAT) Top-Screen and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) classifies your facility a high-risk facility, you will have to develop and implement Security Vulnerability Assessments (SVA) and Site Security Plans (SSP). Your facility may already have security measures in place

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that will help you meet the applicable risk-based performance standards, but you must also develop and implement appropriately risk-based measures designed to satisfy the risk-based performance standards listed in 6 CFR 27.230(a)(1)-(19))

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=2007_register&page=17729&position=all .

The additional burden of complying with this regulation would consist of either creating a CSAT SSP or referencing measures in an existing security plan by way of an Alternate Security Program (applicable for lower risk facilities only).

For security reasons, only authorized users that have been assigned usernames and passwords through the CSAT User Registration process may have access to the Top Screen tool. After submitting the necessary information through Top Screen, DHS will notify those facilities that need to complete a SVA. The SVA and SSP templates are not yet finalized, but access will be restricted to registered CSAT users whose Top Screen results require their use of the tools.

For more information on the Department of Homeland's Security new Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, see the DHS website http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/laws/gc_1166796969417.shtm at or contact Environmental Resource Center.

How to File an Extension Request to the DHS Top-Screen Deadline [6 CFR 27.200]

Affected chemical facilities were required to submit the Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) Top-Screen to the Department of Homeland Security by Jan. 22, 2008. If you did not file the top-screen, you must submit an extension request by USPS or special delivery. Do not fax your extension request to the CSAT Help Desk.

Mission Critical Chemicals as Defined by the DHS [6 CFR 27]

If your facility is required to complete and submit the Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) Top-Screen to the Department of Homeland Security, you will be required to answer questions on mission-critical chemicals.

Your facility's production of a chemical is deemed mission critical if it accounts for 20% or more of the chemical's domestic production to one or more critical infrastructure sectors. The critical infrastructure sectors are defined as Defense Industrial Base, Energy (electric generation only), Public Health and Healthcare, or Public Drinking Water.

For more information on the Department of Homeland's Security Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, see the DHS website or contact Environmental Resource Center.

What's an OSHA Foreseeable Emergency? [29 CFR 1910.1200]

Under OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200, the term "foreseeable emergency" is used several times. It is important that every employer who has hazardous chemicals present at their facility understand how this term is used and how it impacts the emergency planning and employee training aspects of their hazard communication program.

The term "foreseeable emergency" appears within the definition of "employee" as well as being included as an individual term within the standard. These two occurrences of the term, found at 29 CFR 1910.1200©

> *"Employee means a worker who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals under normal operating conditions or in foreseeable emergencies. Workers such as office workers or bank tellers who encounter hazardous chemicals only in non-routine, isolated instances are not covered."*
>
> *"Foreseeable emergency means any potential occurrence such as, but not limited to, equipment failure, rupture of containers, or failure of control equipment which could result in an uncontrolled release of a hazardous chemical into the workplace."*

The final occurrence of the "foreseeable emergency" term is located in Appendix E of 29 CFR 1910.1200 http://osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?

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p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10104 . This appendix is titled, "Advisory Guidelines for Employers."

Appendix E states that:

"Employers that 'use' hazardous chemicals must have a program to ensure the information is provided to exposed employees. 'Use' means to package, handle, react, or transfer. This is an intentionally broad scope, and includes any situation where a chemical is present in such a way that employees may be exposed under normal conditions of use or in a foreseeable emergency."

Employers must carefully consider worst-case scenarios" as far as potential releases of hazardous chemicals at their facility and must plan accordingly to protect the health and safety of their employees.

More Information:

http://osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10099

http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/03jul20071500/edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2007julqtr/29cfr1910.1200.htm

How to Calculate the Number of Full-Time Employees for TRI Reporting [40 CFR 372.3]

Hopefully, you got this one right and hopefully, you submitted your TRI report on time to the EPA, ADEQ (to meet toxic data reporting requirements) and to respective SERCs. In Arizona's case, that's us... the AZSERC.

One of the prerequisites that must be met for your facility to be subject to the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting requirements of SARA Title III, found at 40 CFR 372, is that your facility must have 10 or more full-time employees.

The term full-time employee is defined at 40 CFR 372.3 as having 2,000 hours per year of full-time equivalent employment. You should calculate the number of full-time employees by totaling the hours worked during the calendar year by all employees, including contract employees, and dividing that total by 2,000 hours. If the resulting number is 10 or more, the facility meets the prerequisite of having 10 or more full-time employees. The facility would then continue through the determination process to identify whether or not they must complete the TRI requirements by submitting Form R or Form A reports by July 1 of each year. (Thanks to the Environmental Resource Center)

Paint, Stain Manufacturer Settles with EPA for Hazardous Chemical Violations

A manufacturer has paid a $266,800 penalty as a part of a settlement of an enforcement action brought by the Environmental Protection Agency for violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

The company manufactures paints and stains. In the FIFRA portion of the complaint, EPA alleged that the company sold or distributed unregistered pesticide products, specifically, “Cabot SPF 1 Cleaner and Conditioner” and “Cabot Problem Solver Wood Cleaner” from March 2006 to February 2007.

The labels on the products included claims about the products’ mildew and mold killing/removing properties, triggering EPA’s pesticide registration requirements. However, neither product had received a pesticide “registration” from EPA.

In the EPCRA portion of the complaint, EPA alleged that Valspar failed to submit certain information, thereby hampering the public’s ability to obtain accurate information about the type and amount of toxic chemicals in their community. Valspar corrected the EPCRA and FIFRA violations as of spring 2007. Source:

See: http://www.wickedlocal.com/newburyport/news/business/x1874990310/Newburyport-paint-stain-manufacturer-settles-with-EPA-for-hazardous-chemical-violations

(Continued from page 1)
to the store.

Lead Investigator Jeffrey Wanko said, 'The placement of the tank facilitated gas entering the building and the ignition of the flammable gas and contributed to the high number of injuries and fatalities. The tank did not comply with National Fire Protection Association or Occupation Safety and Health Administration sitting specifications which require that a propane tank be placed 10 feet from the building.

Investigators believe personnel involved in the installation of a new propane tank at the store removed a metal screw cap on the liquid withdrawal valve, in preparation for removing propane from the old tank. The malfunctioning withdrawal valve leaked, resulting in an uncontrollable release. The technician was unable to stop the flow and placed a 9-1-1 emergency call.

CSB investigators found that, in common with many states, West Virginia does not require technicians who install propane tanks to receive any formal training. The CSB is also examining the practices of 9-1-1 emergency call centers to provide basic emergency instructions for flammable gas incidents such as proper evacuation procedures. In this instance, Little General employees stayed in the building during the gas release.

The CSB's final report and safety recommendations are expected to be complete in mid-2008. Visit CSB at www.csb.gov.

For more information, contact Director of Public Affairs Dr. Daniel Horowitz, (202) 261-7613, or Public Affairs Specialists Hillary Cohen at (202) 261-3601, or Jennifer Jones at (202) 261-3603.

EPA Releases Multi-cultural Environmental Outreach Materials

EPA has released two publications specifically designed to increase environmental awareness among multilingual communities. "Teach English, Teach about the Environment" is a curriculum designed to help teach adult students English, while introducing basic concepts about the environment and individual environmental responsibility.

The concepts introduced in the curriculum can help immigrants understand their role in contributing towards cleaner and healthier communities by reducing, reusing and recycling.

The second publication, "Working Together for a Healthy Environment – A Guide for Multi-Cultural Community Groups," is designed to help community-based organizations plan and execute community events that promote reducing, reusing and recycling. It has a brief introductory paragraph on the inside cover in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean.

Read "Teach English, Teach about the Environment" at: http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/teachers.htm

Read "Working Together for a Healthy Environment – A Guide for Multi-Cultural Community Groups" at: http://www.epa.gov/oswr/community.htm

Contacts: Roxanne Smith, (202) 564-4355 / smith.roxanne@epa.gov (media only)

Andrea Drinkard, (703) 308-0214 / drinkard.andrea@epa.gov (all other inquiries)

EPA's Regulatory Plan

EPA has released its Regulatory Plan, which describes 30 of the most significant regulations it plans to issue by next October.

EPA also released its Semiannual Regulatory Agenda, which describes over 300 actions under development or review, as well as those completed or withdrawn since the Spring 2007 agenda was published.

For the first time, the bulk of EPA's agenda is available exclusively online rather than on paper in the Federal Register. Moving to an online agenda helps meet e-Government objectives.

EPA has recognized that not everyone has access to the Internet, so they have made printed copies of the agenda available upon request. These hard copies are available by calling 1-800-490-9198 or by e-mailing: nscep@bps-lmit.com. (E-mail requests should include the requestor's name and address and display "Regulatory Agenda Hard Copy" in the subject line.)

EPA's Regulatory Plan is available in the Federal Register at:

http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-GENERAL/2007/December/Day-10/g04839.htm

For more information about EPA's Regulatory Plan and Semiannual Regulatory Agenda: http://www.epa.gov/opei/orpm.html#agenda

First Responder Hot Weather Preparedness

Thanks to EMR-ISAC Infogram 20-08 for the following: Emergency responder experiences substantiate the possibility of diminished individual performance and potential for degraded organizational effectiveness caused by intense summer heat.

When do you halt training exercises? A recent FireRescue1 article discusses how an ESS department took steps to increase safety during hot-weather training. One criterion established for future training was to monitor "humiture" (i.e., a combined measurement of temperature and humidity) to determine when to suspend training activities. The department also examined NFPA 1403: Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions seen at: http://www.nfpa.org/freecodes/free_access_agreement.asp?id=140307.

According to the article, "Firefighter Safety during Extreme Hot Weather," the department ruled that because there are times when responders must go out into heat to perform various duties, proactive and aggressive rehabilitation policies had to be enforced. Some recommended rehab processes from various sources include the following:

- Require medical personnel with a transport unit to be on site throughout training evolutions.
- Create shaded areas with tents.
- Provide electrolyte sports drinks and bottled water.
- Set up limb immersion chairs under tents and provide cool towels.
- Monitor temperature and relative humidity continuously.
- Provide medical monitoring of participating personnel, and emergency medical treatment in accordance with local protocol.
- Ensure personnel accountability.
- Enforce work-to-rest ratios.

The article can be seen at http://www.firerescue1.com/firerehab/articles/402316-Firefighter-Safety-During-Extreme-Hot-Weather-Part-2. A ready-to-use rehabilitation guideline training aid (29-slide PowerPoint presentation) is available at http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads/RehabShowFinal.ppt.

The 2008 Federal Emergency Management Agency/U.S. Fire Administration document, "Emergency Incident Rehabilitation," (5.63 MB, 174 pp.) can be downloaded at https://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_314.pdf.

Rehab Recommendation Becomes Standard

The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) learned that National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1584, Standard on the Rehabilitation Process for Members During Emergency Operations and Training Exercises, which has existed for four years as a recommendation, attained "Standard" status this month. Emergency Services Sector (ESS) organizations must begin implementing the standard this year.

Emergency operations rehabilitation protects personnel, the most critical of an organization's infrastructures, and functions as a resilience tool that enables responders to resume readiness status quickly and safely. To comply with Standard 1584, according to FireRehab.com," each fire department must develop and implement Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) that outline how they provide rehabilitation at incidents and training exercises. Rehabilitation also must be integrated into the department's Incident Management System.

The following are nine key components of rehab required under NFPA 1584:

- Relief from climactic conditions;
- Rest and recovery;
- Cooling or re-warming;
- Re-hydration;
- Calorie and electrolyte replacement;
- Medical monitoring;
- EMS treatment in accordance with local protocol;
- Member accountability; and
- Release from rehab.

An array of resources, including online training, case studies, clinical studies, and relevant links, are available at http://www.firerehab.com. To view the article, "Making Rehab a Requirement: NFPA 1584," go to: http://www.firerehab.com/Columnists/McEvoy/articles/327047 .

The Draft Report on Proposals (F2007), NFPA Standard 1584 can be examined at no charge at http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/ROP/1584-F2007-ROP.pdf. Free subscriptions to NFPA News, the association's newsletter of detailed information on its codes and standards activities, can be acquired at: http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=136&itemID=19181%&URL=Codes%20and%20Standards/NFPA%20News.
The U.S. Fire Administration's Emergency Incident Rehabilitation can be read and downloaded at http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-114.pdf.

(As always, thanks to : Emergency Management and Response Information Sharing and Analysis Center -EMR-ISAC; INFOGRAM 4-08, January 31, 2008)

National Response Framework (NRF) Training Released

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released the on-line IS-800.B National Response Framework (NRF), An Introduction training course. The NRF, which focuses on response and short-term recovery, articulates the doctrine, principles and architecture by which our nation prepares for and responds to all-hazard disasters across all levels of government and all sectors of communities.

Course Information: The course introduces participants to the concepts and principles of the NRF.

Course Objectives: At the end of this course, students will be able to describe:

- The purpose of the National Response Framework.
- The response doctrine established by the National Response Framework.
- The roles and responsibilities of entities as specified in the National Response Framework.
- The actions that support national response.
- The response organizations used for multi-agency coordination.
- How planning relates to national preparedness.

Audience: This course is intended for government executives, private-sector and nongovernmental organization (NGO) leaders, and emergency management practitioners. This includes senior elected and appointed leaders, such as Federal department or agency heads, State Governors, mayors, tribal leaders, and city or county officials - those who have a responsibility to provide for effective response. Senior leaders, emergency management practitioners, disaster workers, and first responders who have previously completed IS-800 or IS-800A are not required to complete IS-800B as part of NIMS compliance activities; however, FEMA strongly urges emergency management professionals across the nation to complete this new independent study course on the NRF.

Additional information on the NRF can be obtained from the NRF Resource Center at www.fema.gov/nrf.

Course Completion: This course is available at http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS800b.asp. When individuals complete the course, they should take the online test, fill out the student information and submit the test for scoring. FEMA's Emergency Management Institute's Independent Study office will notify individuals via email of their successful completion of the course and a link will be included to access and print a course certificate.

Questions: Individuals may contact the Independent Study office via email Independent.Study@dhs.gov or contact the call center at 301-447-1200 or toll free at 1-800-238-3358, extension 1200. Independent Study Program office hours are 7:30a.m.-7:30p.m. (EDT).

Pre-requisite: None

Course Length: The overall length of the course will vary for each individual. IS800.B takes approximately 3 hours to complete.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs): FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) awards 0.3CEUs for successful completion of this course.

Additional NRF training will be released soon highlighting the Emergency Support Function (ESFs), Support and Incident Annexes.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

Atlantic Richfield Fined $187M for Contamination

The Atlantic Richfield Co. will pay $187 million to cover the costs of cleaning up contamination along 120 miles of the Clark Fork River and other areas in southwestern Montana, according to the Justice Department and the U.S. EPA.

Atlantic Richfield will pay for damage that occurred from decades of mining activity upstream in Butte and Anaconda that contaminated sediment, banks and the floodplain of the Clark Fork with heavy metals that harm plant and animal life, according to Justice Department officials.

The agreement follows lengthy litigation and negotiation, according to the Justice Department.

One Million Dollar Fine for Utility & Contractor

A utility company and its contractor were cited with 60 workplace-safety violations and face more than $1 million in fines for an underground fire that killed five workers.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration found that the company "willfully" violated safety procedures in the handling of a flammable solvent and numerous electrical devices that could have sparked the tunnel fire in October. The company was resealing a water conduit for a power plant, which also was cited for worker-safety procedures and for failing to ensure that a rescue could be performed.

"This catastrophe could have been avoided if the companies had followed their critical safety procedures," Edwin Foulke Jr., Assistant U.S. Secretary of Labor, said in a media release. "There should never be such a disregard for the safety of employees."

A fire broke out in the 4,000-foot-long hydroelectric-plant tunnel while the workers were cleaning a sprayer with the flammable solvent methyl ethyl ketone (MEK). A thick cloud of smoke trapped and killed the five workers. The company is facing $845,100 in fines in connection with 40 specific violations.

OSHA said the company directed employees to use the solvent unsafely; installed lights, heaters and wiring not approved for use around flammable substances because they could start a fire; and did not have fire extinguishers and other safety equipment available at the worksite 1,400 feet deep in the tunnel.

OSHA investigators did not dwell on the precise cause of the fire but instead issued citations for numerous possible ignition sources, including hot halogen lights, improper electrical wiring and ungrounded appliances that could have generated the spark of static electricity needed to set off the vapors.

"There were a significant amount of hazards that were identified," said the OSHA area administrator. "Workers should have handled the solvent appropriately, used proper electrical wiring and appliances, ensured proper ventilation in the tunnel and had an evacuation plan," he said.

(Extracted from materials sent by Timothy R Gablehouse, NASTTPO President; visit www.nasttpo.org)

Chlorine Incidents, Lessons Learned

An incident in a major metropolitan area recently motivated the Emergency Management and Response--Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) staff to research and report lessons learned from domestic events involving chlorine. Emergency Services Sector (ESS) departments and agencies know chlorine is a dangerous asphyxiate that can result in major health and psychological consequences even after low-level exposure. Most emergency responders understand chlorine is more lethal if released under optimal conditions such as in confined areas or outdoors with low humidity and no wind. Response personnel additionally comprehend that chlorine is heavier than air and will concentrate in low-lying areas (e.g., basements and subway tunnels).

Recognizing the possible chlorine threat to ESS critical infrastructures, the EMR-ISAC offers the following list of lessons learned gleaned from various public and private sources:

- Acquire the appropriate detection equipment and practice using it.
- Develop appropriate response procedures with mutual aid agreements as necessary.
- Train all first responders regarding the risks of chlorine poisoning and how to respond.
- Teach potential incident commanders to make changes based on new developments.
- Require an immediate citizen evacuation of any identified contaminated area, (OR CONSIDER SHELTER IN PLACE OPTIONS AS SITUATION WARRANTS - this 'bullet' edited by AZSERC to include Shelter-in-Place consideration).
- Provide constant monitoring for chlorine concentrations inside and outside of the affected building.
- Closely monitor weather and air quality for any changes.
- Prepare for wind fluctuations that put responders and others at risk.
- Keep respirators readily available for immediate use.
- Ensure the incident command post and backup personnel are in the "cold" zone out of danger.

Officials of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board claim that emergency personnel make frequent mistakes at chlorine incident scenes. To help eliminate missteps, ESS organizations can consult the pamphlets and programs of The Chlorine Institute at the following website: http://www.chlorineinstitute.org/Bookstore/SearchBrowse.cfm. Another valuable resource is the Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (CHEMTREC), which can be accessed at: http://www.chemtrec.org/Chemtrec/Resources/.
(Extracted with thanks from EMR-ISAC CIP INFOGRAM 11-08)

What To Do If You Spot Suspicious Terrorist Activity

If you see suspicious behavior, do not confront the individuals involved.

Take note of the details:

S - Size (Jot down the number of people, gender, ages, and physical descriptions)

A - Activity (Describe exactly what they are doing)

L - Location (Provide exact location)

U - Uniform (Describe what they are wearing, including shoes)

T - Time (Provide date, time, and duration of activity)

E - Equipment (Describe vehicle, make, color etc., license plate, camera, guns, etc)

Suspicious activity is often recalled after an event. We must train ourselves to be on the lookout for things that are out of the ordinary and arouse suspicions.

Keep in mind, those who commit terrorist acts:

- Usually live among us without appearing suspicious while planning and preparing for their attack. They may be your neighbor, student or friend.
- Often they will need training or equipment that will arouse suspicion.
- Need to conduct surveillance on possible targets and gather information on the planned attack location.

All of these things make terrorists vulnerable to detection, by those watching for certain characteristics. Learn to recognize the difference between normal and abnormal behavior. It can be a fine line. Stay alert in your daily travels and routines and get to know:

- Who your neighbors are;
- What cars are normally in your neighborhood; and
- Who regularly makes deliveries at work and in your neighborhood.

Staying alert is NOT about becoming paranoid. Staying alert is being aware of one's surroundings. Be alert to indications of possible trouble. They may include:

- A local activity that could indicate problems in your community;
- One of the clues that led to the recent break-up of a terrorist plot was that several of the cell members were spotted celebrating in an apartment complex on the anniversary of 911;
- Previous activity or crimes;
- Controversial issues being debated; and
- Suspicious thefts.

For more detailed information, visit: http://www.nationalterroralert.com/suspicious-activity/

See the web page for the video: The Seven Signs of Terrorism which is on the resources page.

Source: www.oursafetowns.com.

FEMA and Kids...For Kids

Play games, enjoy stories, do puzzles, go through mazes, watch videos - welcome to FEMA for Kids, the Web site that is all fun and games…sort of. Underneath all the fun is a lot of good information that makes kids and their families better prepared in the event of a disaster. You can even become a Disaster Action Kid and get your very own certificate to hang on the wall!

FEMA for Kids is presented by FEMA. Go to www.fema.gov and click on Kids. Meet Herman the spokescrab and tag along on his search for a disaster-proof shell. You'll also meet Julia and Robbie, the Disaster Twins. Wherever these two go, trouble is sure to follow. Watch brother and sister get into - and out of - all sorts of close calls, learning along the way how to be better prepared, or how to avoid danger altogether.

The Web site shows disasters come in many shapes and sizes. Some are predictable -- like a hurricane. Some, like a tornado, can surprise us. Leaning about the different kinds of disasters will help us all be better prepared. Learn the best way to keep safe, and keep your family and pets safe, as you do what you like to do best - have fun!

Find out about disaster kits and learn what you need before the danger happens. Discover what you might feel during and after such an incident. Read stories from other young people your age who have been through a disaster, or tell your own story. FEMA for Kids is a tool for recovery as well as preparedness. There are even resources for parents and teachers. They can get great curriculum or safety information that can be used in the classroom or at home.

Disasters aren't fun, but learning about them can be. Plus, there's that cool certificate to hang on your wall. Give it a try, kids. Mom and dad can try too.

A primer on dust explosions

It is necessary for five elements to be in place for a dust explosion to occur. First is the presence of a combustible dust itself. That can be almost any organic material - grain flour, plastic, corn starch, pharmaceuticals, and even powdered metals such as aluminum. And as was the case here in Savannah sugar particles are a combustible dust.

An important parameter is the particle size. Finer particles are more likely to be both ignitable and dispersible. Additional parameters are particle shape and the molecular composition of the substance itself.

A second needed element is a source of oxygen. Because air contains appreciable amounts of oxygen, air is all that is necessary to support an explosion.

Third, the dust needs to be dispersed into the air.

Finally, some energy source is required to ignite the mixture. That may be something with as little energy as static electricity or a stronger energy source such as an open flame or an electrical fault.

A final element is confinement. And because buildings have walls, ceilings, floors and roofs, they create confinement. However, another form of confinement may be process equipment and even ducting. It can be ironic that ducting used for dust extraction and other equipment such as dust collectors can themselves be conducive for the initiation of dust explosions.

An important attribute of dust explosions is that they may propagate. In such instances some primary event occurs that kicks up larger amounts of dust that may have accumulated and disperses the dust into the air. When this happens the stage can be set for catastrophe. A very large flammable dust cloud ignites with devastating consequences. In other instances an initial explosion may simply propagate as the blast wave ahead of a rapidly advancing flame front - the fireball - which disperses more dust and ignites as the fireball expands. When a dust explosion occurs in a building, walls may blow out, floors may heave, and ceilings may collapse. This can all occur in a few seconds. It is therefore not unusual for local fire protection and electrical systems to be almost instantly crippled. Occupants may at first find themselves burned, or blown about, or struck, or among rubble. At worst they may experience all of that. At first they may find themselves in darkness or the obscurity of smoke. But fires initiated by the thermal energy of the explosion may follow and grow. The scene is set for tragedy.

Thanks to the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) for the above information. This is a most difficult time for the people of the Imperial Sugar Company in Savannah, Georgia, the site of a recent sugar dust explosion and fire, Atand for the community as a whole. Visit CSB.gov for additional information or contact CSB Public Affairs Specialist Hillary Cohen at (202) 446-8094 cell or Daniel Horowitz at (202) 441-6074

EPA's Homeland Security Project for Nation's Drinking Water Systems

To protect the nation's drinking water systems from a contamination event, EPA creates planning systems for municipal water systems. EPA's National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC) has created a planning tool that was nominated for an award from the Edelman international research group. The NHSRC developed the Sensor Placement Optimization Tool (TEVA-SPOT) to compute the optimal number and location of sensors needed for an effective contamination warning system. Even municipalities that serve over a million customers can run the TEVA-SPOT program on a standard desktop computer.

The faster a contamination incident can be detected and isolated, the better public health can be protected. A well-designed contamination warning system may reduce the health impacts of a contamination instance by 90 percent and reduce the economic consequences by billions of dollars. TEVA-SPOT is currently used by select water utilities across the country.

The project, developed in partnership with Sandia National Laboratories, Argonne National Laboratory, and the University of Cincinnati, was one of six finalists for The Franz Edelman Award for Achievement in Operations Research which recognizes outstanding projects internationally that transform entire industries and positively impact people's lives.

More information on the Threat Ensemble Vulnerability Assessment Sensor Placement Optimization Tool (TEVA-SPOT): http://www.epa.gov/nhsrc/water/teva.html
EPA's National Homeland Security Research Center: http://www.epa.gov/nhsrc
Franz Edelman Competition: http://www.scienceofbetter.org/Edelman (winners announced mid April)
Contact: Suzanne Ackerman, (202) 564-4355 / ackerman.suzanne@epa.gov

Community Emergency Planning Considerations

When researching the best practices of emergency planning, the Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) observed a large variety of information and guidance on the subject. Some of the information consulted was precise and provided practical suggestions and processes; however, some of the sources were wordy and confusing.

While examining several documents, the EMR-ISAC was reminded that over the years planning specialists have identified eight fundamental principles of emergency planning to increase the preparedness of a community. For the benefit of local emergency managers and the chief officers of the emergency services, particularly to support their efforts to promote jurisdictional infrastructure protection and resilience, the principles are excerpted as follows from a 27 March article seen at http://www.govtech.com/gt/print_article.php?id=261418:

- Anticipate both active and passive resistance to the planning process, and develop strategies to manage these obstacles.
- Address all hazards to which the community is exposed.
- Include all response organizations, seeking their participation, commitment, and clearly defined agreement.
- Base pre-impact planning on accurate assumptions about the threat, about typical human behavior in disasters, and about likely support from external sources such as state and federal agencies.
- Identify the types of emergency response actions that are most likely to be appropriate.
- Address the linkage of emergency response to disaster recovery.
- Provide for training and evaluation of the emergency response organization at all levels—individual, team, department, and community.
- Recognize that emergency planning is a continuing process.

These basic steps can be found in Chapter 7 of "Emergency Management: Principles and Practice for Local Government," Second Edition (December 2007), published by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

Thanks to Emergency Management and Response Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) emr-isac@govdelivery.com for sharing. See Infogram 13-08, April 3, 2008.

Resources for Ethanol Fuel Incident Responses

The increasing use of alternative fuels, such as ethanol blends, have the following consequences: tanker trucks and railcars that carry enormous quantities of the fuels are transporting them to areas of the U.S. not familiar with the products; tank farms that hold the products are appearing in many jurisdictions; and Emergency Services Sector (ESS) organizations are challenged to become aware of the hazards and behavior of the products and understand the training, equipment, and extinguishing agents necessary for safe and effective responses to alternative fuel incidents.

The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) examined a variety of resources that can aid departments in planning and preparedness to enhance response-ability and personnel protection. One is the Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition (EERC) formed in 2006 to address challenges first responders face in handling ethanol fires and spills. Last year, the EERC conducted live fire tests using differing types of foams on ethanol fuel fires with the objective of documenting which foams were most capable of controlling these fires. (Traditional non-alcohol resistant foams are not effective on ethanol or ethanol-blend fuel fires.) A description of the tests is available at http://www.fireworld.com/ifw_articles/e95_08_07.php, and an Executive Summary of the test results can be seen at http://www.fireworld.com/ifw_articles/eftr.php.

Experts who appear in a 19-minute video on responding to ethanol incidents urge ESS departments to assess the risks posed by storage and transport of the fuels at the community level. This is consistent with Step 4 of the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Process seen in the EMR-ISAC CIP Job Aid (http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/emr-isac/cipc_jobaid.shtm). Experts further stressed the need to inform personnel about appropriate equipment, extinguishing agents, and training. An article on relevant training is available at http://www.fireworld.com/ifw_articles/ethanol.php.

The response video can be viewed at http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6670886108506696117&hl=en.

Another resource is Missouri's Department of Natural Resources Technical Bulletin on Response to Ethanol and Gasoline Fuel Blend Releases. It explains the fuels and their properties, and offers measures for potential firefighting hazards, and spill or leak prevention guidelines (https://www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub2206.pdf). Thanks to EMR-ISAC for sharing (emr-isac@govdelivery.com).

OSHA Renews Its Alliance With The Society For Chemical Hazard Communication

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently renewed its Alliance with the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC) which aims to address hazard communication and Material Safety Data Sheets in the workplace, as well as produce and prevent exposure to chemical hazards.

"In renewing our Alliance, the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC) is looking forward to working with OSHA to increase awareness and understanding of the impact of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) on hazard communication," said Michele Sullivan, chair of the SCHC Board. "This is a time of change and growth for hazard communication and the Alliance provides an opportunity for a collaborative effort."

SCHC promotes the improvement of the business of hazard communication for chemicals. It also provides guidance and technical expertise to private, nonprofit groups and government on improving hazard communication for chemicals.

Source: OSHA

Aging Systems Releasing Sewage into Rivers, Streams

America's aging sewer systems continue to dump human waste into rivers and streams, despite years of fines and penalties targeting publicly owned agencies responsible for sewage overflows. The analysis of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data found that since 2003, hundreds of municipal sewer authorities have been fined for violations, including spills that make people sick, threaten local drinking water, and kill aquatic animals and plants.

Local governments across the U.S. plan to spend billions modernizing failing wastewater systems over the next ten to 20 years, EPA, state, and local sewer authority officials said.

The analysis found that at least one-third of the nation's large, publicly owned sewage treatment systems were the subject of formal enforcement actions by the EPA or state regulators for sewage spills or other violations. Those enforcement actions included fines as well as orders to fix problems or expand treatment capacity. Fines totaling $35 million were assessed against 494 of the nation's 4,200 municipal facilities that treat at least one million gallons of sewage daily, the analysis shows. In addition, some states have levied penalties that are not included in the EPA data. Cities with the largest fines included San Diego, New York, and Los Angeles.

An EPA 2004 report to Congress estimated that 850 billion gallons of storm water mixed with raw sewage pour into U.S. waters every year from older, combined sewer systems that were designed to overflow in wet weather. These combined systems, built by cities in the 19th and early 20th centuries, are now considered antiquated and a threat to public health and the environment, according to the EPA and environmental groups.

An additional three billion to ten billion gallons of raw sewage spill accidentally every year from systems designed to carry only sewage, according to the 2004 report. Causes of these spills include improper connections, clogs from debris, construction accidents, and cracks in aging pipes. The EPA estimates that as many as 5,500 people get sick every year from direct exposure to sewer overflows near beaches.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-05-07-sewers-main_N.htm

Industrial Chemicals as WMD

The following is shared, as received, from Tim Gablehouse, President of the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO); visit their website at www.nasttpo.org. The article addresses 2010 Soccer World Cup planning in South Africa but is pertinent worldwide.

The detection of industrial chemicals in the atmosphere is a generally straightforward proposition, especially if you are looking at chemicals with a high degree of toxicity, like chlorine or anhydrous ammonia. Commercial detectors are readily available and it would take relatively little effort to link a series of such detectors into a system to protect the perimeter of even a large sporting or political event. The effectiveness of such a system lies in the response plan.

To read the full article visit: https://www.azserc.org/Tools/Planning/tabid/118/Default.aspx

EPA Acts on Pesticide Violations - Read and Heed

EPAgency recently reached a $270,000 settlement with a grocery distributor for the sale and distribution of an unregistered pesticide, a violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act "FIFRA". The company allegedly sold and distributed "Western Family Cleanser with Bleach," an unregistered product that stated on the label that it "wipes out most household germs, including Staph, Salmonella, and Pseudomonas."

"Staph, Salmonella, and Pseudomonas are harmful bacteria that can cause serious damage to human health. Products that claim to eliminate such bacteria must be registered with EPA as a pesticide," said Katherine Taylor, Associate Director of the Communities and Ecosystems Division in EPA's Pacific Southwest region.

The FIFRA Act requires companies to register cleaning products as pesticides if the cleaning product makes claims to control germs. These requirements protect public health and the environment by ensuring safe production, handling, and application of pesticides, and by preventing false, misleading, or unverifiable product claims.

For more information on pesticide regulation and enforcement, please visit the EPA's Web site at: http://www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/fifra/index.html

(Questions? Contact: Francisco Arcaute, 213/798-1404, arcaute.francisco@epa.gov)

EPA Fines Manufacturer $36,400 for Ammonia Release Violation

EPA recently fined a food packaging plant $36,400 for a 2006 ammonia air release violation. The facility did not properly notify the National Response Center nor state and local authorities.

"Facilities using hazardous chemicals must provide timely and accurate information about the risks posed by these chemicals to local, state and federal officials," said Keith Takata, Superfund Director, EPA Pacific Southwest Region. "Without this information, emergency planners and first responders cannot be adequately prepared to protect our communities in the event of an accidental or intentional release of those chemicals."

According to the EPA, in June 2006, the facility released over 4,000 pounds of ammonia due to equipment strainer failure. This release was a reportable quantity under the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know-Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act "CERCLA" Exposure to ammonia can irritate the skin, eyes, and respiratory system. Ammonia is listed as a hazardous substance under the CERCLA Act.

The company manufactures bread, deli meats and sandwiches. The firm has since made modifications at the facility and changed notification procedures, to ensure that any future accidental releases would be easier to curtail and immediately reported.

The CERCLA Act requires immediate notification of the release of a reportable quantity of a hazardous substance, such as ammonia, in order to allow emergency response teams an opportunity to evaluate the nature and extent of the release, prevent exposure to the hazardous substance, and minimize consequences to public health and the environment.

For more information on CERCLA, please visit: http://www.epa.gov/superfund/policy/cercla.htm

Since 1986, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires that facilities report on-site extremely hazardous chemicals, to ensure emergency responders take proper precautions in the event an accidental or intentional release occurs.

For more information on the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know-Act, please visit EPA's web site at: http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/epcra/index.htm

Questions? Contact: Francisco Arcaute, (213) 244-1815, Cell: (213) 798-1404. Main press line: (415) 947-8700

Oil Storage Company Faces $157,500 in Fines

Extracted from an article by Bruce Geiselman

A company, in another state, that owns and operates oil storage and distribution facilities faces up to $157,500 in EPA fines for allegedly failing to adequately plan for and guard against oil spills, in violation of the federal Clean Water Act and Oil Pollution Prevention Regulations.

An EPA administrative complaint accuses the company of failing to adequately prepare and implement spill prevention, control and countermeasures plans at two of its facilities.

Spill prevention and control laws ensure that a tank failure or spill does not lead to oil being released into surface waters. The regulations require that certain spill prevention and response measures be implemented at facilities that store oil above threshold amounts.

Inspections by EPA and state officials found that the company had failed to fully implement adequate spill plans for two sites.

E-mail Waste News senior reporter Bruce Geiselman at **bgeiselman@crain.com**

Disabled Student Sues - READ AND HEED

What would you do if your child was paralyzed from the neck down and no one helped her evacuate her fourth floor college dormitory when the fire alarm went off and the elevators were shut down? The family of one local student is suing George Mason University

April Cave, 20, who is confined to a wheelchair, says she tried for weeks to get her dorm room assignment changed to the first floor, but it never happened. Cave is suing in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"They just tell us that it is too much trouble for them to deal with. That is what they put into their lawsuit response," says April's mother.

The incident, which turned out to be a false alarm, happened last November. Pam says her daughter was left stranded as students scrambled out of the building. April Cave was injured in a car accident four days after graduating from high school in June of 2006.

(Interested in materials that actually contemplate such a situation and offer solutions? See "Project Safe EV-AC" a 3 year federally funded project out of West Virginia University; at: http://evac.icdi.wvu.edu . Hope this toolkit will be of use to many of you. (Thanks to Elizabeth Davis, EAD & Associates, LLC; 718-330-0034 (V/TTY); www.eadassociates.com)

Read the article:
http://www.wtop.com/?sid=1386518&nid=25

9-1-1

By Fred Cowie

It's not that we don't care It's not that we are not patriotic. It's not that we don't remember 9/11, but it is time to return to the thrilling days of yesteryear and return the original spelling, as it were, of 9-1-1.

The events of that fateful day, one which will also live in infamy, turned the emergency management and first responder worlds upside down, 9-1-1 became 9/11.Hazards, risks, response capabilities, which had once been deemed local (i.e., "All hazards are local." and "All disasters are local.") went to the bottom of the list and "national security" and "international terrorism" took center stage. Like the nation after Pearl Harbor, we all lined up to serve, help out, do our part.

But let us not forget the phrase of phrases uttered by the man in the wheelchair: "The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself!" Terrorism has but one goal, to terrorize. And terror's manifestation is fear, fear itself. Fear drives us to forget. Forget our training. Forget our checklists. Forget our local hazards, our local risks, our local community's responsibilities and duties to its citizens. "My country right or wrong!" "Damn the torpedoes and the locals, full speed ahead." "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country!"

Yes, we too felt that—and still feel that. But alas and alack, "'The time has come,' the walrus said, 'to talk of many things…." Of anhydrous ammonia and co-ops and tank farms, of school shootings and wildland-urban interface, if not cabbages and kings. We have gone down the rabbit hole and we're not in Kansas anymore either. It is time we return to everyday reality. It's time to remember that when it comes down to it, here, at home, where we live, the key phrase is still "Call dispatch!" Spread the word. Pass it on.

(Thanks to Frederick J. (Fred) Cowie, Ph.D. ; Website: Fredcowie.com E-mail: fredcowie@aol.com 24/7 Cell Phone: 406-431-3531)

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Let's Hear From You!

Send us your inputs and feedback on the newsletter; including, exercises and other LEPC related activities in which you've been involved. Let us know what you'd like to see in future editions. Talk to us!

We appreciate your input and look forward to hearing from you!

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Help us reduce "snail" mail. Send us your email address and tell us to switch you to electronic notification.

OUR VISION

A respected team investing in and contributing to a safe and secure homeland through coordinated emergency services.

OUR MISSION

The ND Department of Emergency Services (NDDES) conducts planning, coordination, communications, and operations for the safety and security of all citizens in North Dakota.

OUR VALUES

Integrity - Our words match our actions, we will strive to do what is right.
Respect - We will treat others as we want to be treated.
Honesty - We will truthfully communicate our thoughts and feelings.
Excellence - We will perform professional to the best of our ability.

ND Department of Emergency Services

Ensuring a safe and secure homeland for all North Dakotans